

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-13, 15-18, and 20-23 are pending, with Claims 12, 13, and 15-18 amended, Claims 1, 2, and 14 canceled and Claims 20-23 added by the present amendment.

In the Official Action, Claims 1-2, 12-13, 14 and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Honchi et al. (JP 2002/049367, hereinafter Honchi); in Claims 3-11 and 15-17 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

Allowable Claims 3 and 15-17 are amended into independent form, including the base claim and all intervening claims, if any. Claims 12-13 and Claims 18-19 are amended to depend from Claims 3 and 15, respectively. New Claims 20-23 correspond to Claims 18-19, albeit depending from Claims 16 and 17, respectively. No new matter is added.

In view of the amendments to Claims 3 and 15-17, Applicants submit Claims 3 and 15-17, and all claims depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and in light of the previous discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.


Respectfully submitted,

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